



THE BLUE LIGHT

June 2008

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

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Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

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ABI Division

MAJOR JAMES LYONS
Administrative Division

MAJOR HUGH MCCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT
Protective Services Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division


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The Colonel's Corner

Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Director



My monthly column in *The BLUE LIGHT* provides a great opportunity to discuss Public Safety “current events,” and I want to start out this month with ABI. I appreciate the leadership Maj. Jerry Conner is bringing to that division, which can already feel the winds of change. I just approved a new credential; I have received a prototype of the new badge, which represents a return to the trooper style and reminds us that we are one Department of Public Safety, regardless of assignment; and we are bringing about an important refocusing of ABI’s core mission.

One development is a stronger emphasis on cyber crimes of every description, which is facilitated by the National Computer Forensic Institute. The institute, now open in Hoover, is a joint venture of the Alabama District Attorney’s Association, the U.S. Secret Service, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It will

train district attorneys, judges, law enforcement and, on a limited basis, corporate security in computer forensics, network intrusion, basic electronic crime recognition and the prosecution of electronic crimes. This is the only facility of its kind in America, and it will train students from every state. ABI’s Thomas Whitten this week begins “Basic Computer Evidence Recovery Training” at NCFI. This is a thorough, six-week course that will certify Agent Whitten in computer forensics and return him to ABI with thousands of dollars worth of equipment. Agent Whitten then will be assigned full time to the Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force located at the institute. Agent Robert Thompson is scheduled to attend a later class, and ABI plans to increase his involvement in cyber crime investigative work here in Montgomery. Agent Thompson already is working with both the Alabama District Attorney’s Association and the Secret Service in this arena.

Electronic crimes touch every aspect of criminal activity, and ABI’s move in this direction is important. Certainly the Internet Crimes Against Children program is an area of major emphasis. We also must recognize and be prepared to address the electronic influence and involvement in financial crimes, including identity theft and network intrusion cases; in drug trafficking; and in other criminal activity, from burglary to murder.

In addition, ABI has been hard at work bringing resolution to an old, high-profile crime, using not only the current talent of the division, but also the expertise of retired Capt. John Perdue, who has assisted on this case and other “cold cases.” This is proving to be a great partnership of old and new talent.

In these and other areas, ABI is forward-thinking and using new strategies to work more effectively and more efficiently. It has received not only the attention of this office, but outside agencies, as well. Just this week, U.S. Attorney Leura Canary and retired Maj. John Cloud met with us about nominating ABI for an impressive grant to work on sexual predators, and we appreciate their looking to ABI as the focus for this grant. In addition, we

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

are discussing in-depth partnerships with the Office of Prosecution Services, and ABI is finding new ways to work cooperatively and productively with the DEA, U.S. Marshal Service, Secret Service, and others.

The Service Division is in the process of accounting for all DPS property, and I am grateful to Deric Mc Crory and others who have put so much work into this endeavor. I want each to know that I appreciate your cooperative efforts, which, I am confident, will result in full accountability.

In spite of a challenging financial future ahead for DPS, Gov. Bob Riley authorized at a Public Safety Cabinet meeting proceeding with the June trooper class. The Administrative Division has sent letters to 40 applicants advising them training will begin June 15. Capt. Randy Byrd assures me his staff is ready for the new recruits, about 20 of whom are APOST certified and will be part of an accelerated class.

Protective Services is in the final stages of hiring a few more Capitol Police officers, and I am optimistic that four or five will begin training soon. Capitol Police continues to achieve greater visibility, and I appreciate the service of these officers to Public Safety and to the state. In a less highly visible role, the troopers assigned to various protectees do a great job and impress with their service and their professionalism.

As I travel around the state attending various meetings, I try to visit the local Driver License offices, and I have noted shorter waiting lines for service. I consistently see our DL examiners and other staff working hard, maintaining a positive attitude, and serving the public with pride and professionalism. Driver License soon will be taking on the summer crowds, and I know these dedicated employees are up to challenge and will keep up the good work, which goes a long way in defining DPS for the public we serve.

This last Memorial Day holiday we saw a drop in fatalities from nine to three, and as of this writing, troopers have worked 71 fewer fatalities than this time last year! Bill Shanks has just finished compiling the state totals for 2007, which include urban and rural, and we registered a significant reduction in crashes, injuries, and fatalities across the board. This is outstanding news, any way you analyze it. The efforts of Highway Patrol continue to reduce fatalities, injuries, and crashes in this state, saving lives and creating safer roadways for all. This is news the Governor takes note of daily, and it is at the most basic core value of this department. I am so very proud of this work.

We will continue to face financial challenges as we see gas climb to \$4 and more a gallon and as we face a very challenging budget into the next fiscal year. But at the same time, we will continue to excel, we will continue to work more efficiently and effectively, we will continue to reach for our goal of being the premier law enforcement agency in the state, we will continue to prevent crime and solve crimes, and we will continue to save the lives of Alabamians.

Thank you for all that you do — arresting officers and nonsworn personnel, alike — in serving your state and this great department.



50/4

Take Back Our Highways Takes on Tuscaloosa County



“Take Back Our Highways: 50/4” concludes its four-leg tour of the state Sunday, June 1, in Tuscaloosa County. The campaign’s focus of reducing traffic crashes, deaths, and injuries by generating a highly visible traffic enforcement presence has again proved successful. For the fourth time this year, 50 additional troopers from throughout the state were specifically assigned to a targeted area to supplement area troopers for the four-day saturation.

Tuscaloosa County had the third highest number of traffic fatalities statewide in 2007. With 11 miles of

six-lane highway along Interstate 20/59, Tuscaloosa is also among the busiest of the four targeted areas.

“We see a large amount of truck traffic through the county,” said Lt. Damon Summers, commander of the Tuscaloosa Post. “Tuscaloosa County is also the second-largest county in the state, by area. We’ve got a lot of ground to cover.”

Additional troopers were on hand, working driver license checks and LIDAR details. Also, two separate Task Force Zero checkpoints ran each of two nights for a total of four TFZ checkpoints.

“Tuscaloosa has been fired up about ‘Take Back Our Highways’ for weeks,” said Summers. “This is such a great enforcement tool that was created at Headquarters. We’ve never had such a heavy presence on the road. The residents of Tuscaloosa are lucky to have such wonderful protection available to them.”



DPS Weighs in on Escalating Gas Prices

With the cost of a gallon of gasoline inching ever higher, many motorists are changing their driving habits. DPS is no exception.

On average, Public Safety uses 130,000 gallons of fuel per month. While usage remains fairly constant from month to month, the cost to purchase each gallon has more than doubled since 2004.

The challenge for the department is to find ways to compensate for the increased fuel costs and, at the same time, sustain gains in highway and traffic safety. “DPS has shown great improvement in reducing crashes and lowering fatalities. If we parked cars, went back to 10-hour shifts, and limited the driving radius of troopers, we would lose effectiveness,” said Col. J. Christopher Murphy. “Our goal is to be efficient and effective.”

Maj. Roscoe Howell said that all troop commanders are challenging each trooper to conserve at least four gallons of fuel per shift. “Fuel conservation is at the discretion of the troop commanders, but they have several alternatives at their disposal, such as stationary radar, driver license checks, or vehicle equipment checks,” Howell said.

Another innovative fuel-saving technique DPS will soon implement will be the filling of tires with nitrogen, instead of air. “In addition to improving gas mileage, nitrogen-filled tires don’t leak, have better grip, and improve tire wear by up to 3,000 miles,” said Alan Mobley, equipment maintenance supervisor.

“The cost of gasoline is definitely a concern,” said Accounting Director Fran Copeland. “It isn’t, however, totally unexpected, nor is it something that we weren’t prepared to face. The four-dollar threshold is nearing, but we already have our eyes on that five-dollar barrier. We just hope it never comes to that.”

Copeland admits that, although troubling, there is always a way to trim excess expenditures to come up with needed money. “There is more than one way to skin a cat,” Copeland said. “While it’s nice to know who is calling when you answer the phone, it isn’t a necessity, and it costs \$1.25 per phone, per month. There are countless ways to come up with funds when needed, and none of which will reduce our ability to do our jobs well.”

“If we parked cars, went back to 10-hour shifts, and limited the driving radius of troopers, we would lose effectiveness. Our goal is to be efficient and effective.” -Col. J. Christopher Murphy



Click It or Ticket, Memorial Day Kick off the Summer Travel Season

Memorial Day weekend has long stood as the beginning of the summer travel season, and Alabama state troopers geared up for increased traffic during the holiday period. Initial results from their efforts are promising – only three traffic fatalities occurred in the state during the 78-hour holiday weekend period, six fewer than in 2007.

Falling squarely in the middle of the national “Click It or Ticket” campaign, the Memorial Day holiday engaged troopers with both weekend traffic and setting up checkpoints to target compliance with the state’s seat belt and child restraint laws.

Birmingham troopers prepared for the Memorial Day weekend by having a LIDAR detail on May 21, where the average speed of ticketed motorists was 87 mph. During the detail, one motorist was stopped racing at 108 mph.

In preparation for the holiday, Col. J. Christopher Murphy urged motorists to focus on their safety and that of others when traveling. “Do the right thing for yourself and your family, and buckle up,” said Col. J. Christopher Murphy. “Seat belts and child restraints should be the rule, not the exception, on every trip. Too many motorists in Alabama fail to buckle up, and the result is a tragic loss of life.” Two-thirds of those killed in trooper-reported traffic crashes this year were not wearing safety restraints.



‘Little’ Piece of DPS History Discovered

The Department of Public Safety recently was presented with a “little” piece of history, in the form of an old uniform, fit for a 5-year-old.

Sixty-five years ago, Jimmy Rush, son of Patrolman M.G. Rush (and first cousin of DPS’s Lt. Guy Rush), was the official mascot of the Alabama Highway Patrol, complete with a uniform hand-stitched by his grandmother. He’s held onto the uniform ever since.

The pint-sized uniform is an accurate, miniature replica of the official Alabama Highway Patrol uniform, circa 1943. Although the badge is missing, the otherwise complete uniform includes a hat, belt, flashlight, and pistol, with the pin removed.

Rush, who lives just outside of Montgomery, said, “I distinctly remember wearing the uniform to school. Today, it’s a wonderful conversation piece, and I’m proud to hand it over to DPS to display in their museum.” DPS is equally proud to receive the uniform, thanks to Jimmy Rush and the Rush family.

Left, a five-year old Jimmy Rush wears the uniform he recently returned to DPS to display in the department’s museum.





Allen trains PCOs to use LEO at Headquarters May 22.

New Internet Tool Provides PCOs Advantage



On Thursday, May 22, a special training session was held at DPS Headquarters for police communications officers to acquaint them with Law Enforcement Online. LEO, as it is commonly called, is a state-of-the-art Internet system that is accredited and approved by the FBI for sensitive law enforcement information. Sherry Allen, analyst for the U.S. Department of Justice/Federal Bureau of Investigation, was on hand to provide the training on LEO.

Highway Patrol's Lt. Allen Jones said the purpose of LEO is to assist the department with special events and investigative operations. "This system has sensitive information that is incredibly useful to DPS. Our PCOs used it at Talladega, and they will use it at the upcoming Bama Jam."

According to Jones, LEO is a helpful tool in keeping track of and reviewing information at large events. Another benefit of LEO is how it interconnects various law enforcement organizations nationwide.

"Several PCOs and their supervisors are trained on LEO," said Jones. "Ultimately, our goal is to have all PCOs statewide trained on the system."

LEO is a free service used to support investigative operations, send notifications and alerts, and provide an avenue to access remotely other law enforcement and intelligence systems and resources. LEO provides all levels of the law enforcement, criminal justice, and public safety community virtual private network access to its system for secure electronic communications, online training, and information sharing.



Behind the Scenes at 'Dega

Every year, twice a year, more than 200,000 people descend on the unassuming, quaint city of Talladega, in hopes of witnessing “The Big One.” The problem is, the city of Talladega was never meant to hold that many people.

Enter DPS. Public Safety employs a tried-and-true formula to ensure that every race goes on without a hitch. Track security and traffic control are firmly in the hands of the Jacksonville Post — with assistance from personnel statewide — as post supervisors take on a leadership role to manage the intense traffic congestion and any emergencies that may arise.

“We’ve got security at the racetrack down to an art,” said Sgt. Allan Battles. “In terms of security, each race is a little better than the last.” Planning for the race begins several months in advance, and the results of their efforts are showing. DUI arrests at Talladega have fallen sharply, from 141 in October 2006, to 45 in April 2008.

“The numbers show that race fans aren’t taking the risks that they would if we were not there. When you make your presence known, this is how the crowd responds,” said Battles.

With operations conducted 24 hours a day from the Thursday before the race to the following Monday, DPS has a powerful visibility at the track. Behind the scenes, DPS tactical teams are also present, to assess any critical incidents occurring at the race.

Thirteen troopers working in two different squads establish DUI checkpoints from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., and 14 special ops troopers maintain crowd control, eliminating the many hazards of pedestrian encroachment along Speedway Boulevard.

“Four races ago, it took 45 minutes to move one-half mile down Speedway Boulevard. Both vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic was wall-to-wall, and organizing the chaos was a disaster,” said Battles. “The race is nothing like that now, and that can be credited to our careful planning and implementation.”



Torch Run, Employee Health and Fitness Day Gets DPS Moving

Alabama state troopers were among law enforcement officers from throughout the state taking part in the 2008 Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics. The torch run is an annual event in which Alabama law enforcement personnel participate to support the Special Olympics, alongside Special Olympics athletes.

This year, the Flame of Hope travelled May 16 from Pelham, through Montgomery to its destination at the opening ceremonies for the games in Troy. Both troopers and local law enforcement were on hand to present the torch to Attorney General Troy King on the steps of the state Capitol, where he greeted the runners and presided over the transfer of the flame for the final leg of its journey.

Also "running" in Montgomery that day were participants in National Employee Health and Fitness Day. Several DPS employees took part in the festivities, including two laps around the grounds of the state Capitol. The annual event is held to promote health awareness by focusing on the many benefits of physical activity through employees' work sites.

Arrest Leads to Federal Jury Conviction

A federal jury was able to convict Derrick Myron Lloyd on a two-count indictment for Social Security fraud on May 6, 2008, with the help of Agent Robert Thompson, who worked the case while in Driver License Fraud.

Lloyd went to the Montgomery District Driver License office to apply for an Alabama identification card on August 31, 2007. Lloyd presented Examiner Dorothy Poore with a fraudulent Social Security card identifying him as Rashad A. Hamid, along with a fraudulent New Jersey birth certificate. During an interview, Lloyd attested that the fraudulent documents were good, despite that given birth dates did not match Social Security records. Lloyd elaborated his story by claiming he had various problems with Social Security for years. After a struggle and an attempt to escape custody, Tpr. Stanley Talley and Agent David Henderson of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested Lloyd for criminal possession



Thompson, Poore, and Talley all played important roles in the arrest and conviction of Lloyd.

of a forged instrument.

The repercussions of this incident were only fully realized when Lloyd's true identity was discovered. Lloyd had been secretly living under his Hamid alias for more than 15 years, and had an outstanding warrant in New York for homicide he allegedly committed in 1991, a charge for which Lloyd had been profiled on "America's Most Wanted" several times.

Honoring Our Heroes of Law Enforcement

A joint resolution was passed by the Alabama Legislature and signed by Gov. Bob Riley on Feb. 11, honoring all former and present Alabama Law Enforcement personnel. The ceremony will be on Friday, June 20, at 7 p.m. at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. All law enforcement personnel and their families are invited to attend, free of charge. Personnel are encouraged to wear their uniform and arrive no later than 6:45 p.m.

All career law enforcement personnel, both sworn and nonsworn, with at least 10 years of service qualify to receive the Medal of Distinction. The award is for active, retired, disabled, or deceased career law enforcement personnel. A second medal, the Medal of Valor, will be presented on behalf of all law enforcement personnel killed in the line of duty.

The registration deadline is June 2, 2008. For more information, e-mail: heroes@alagames.com.

Eradication '08 Update

In the second week of marijuana eradication season, ABI made five arrests and seized 132 plants in Mobile County on May 21. The Mobile County Sheriff's Office is assisting the eradication teams on these cases.

Special thanks to Marijuana Eradication Commander Sgt. Gary Whitaker and team leaders Agent Robert Saffold and Agent Kevin Souders.

People You Know!



New Employees

Cynthia Bearden	4/16/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Sheffield
Kasey Brooks	5/01/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Dothan
John Foye	5/01/08	PCO I	HP/Opelika
Elizabeth Lindquist	4/16/08	PCO I	HP/Mobile
Febra McGuire	5/01/08	ASA I	HP/Birmingham
Darryl Moore	5/01/08	Service Patrol Operator	HP/Birmingham
Tameka Raspberry	5/01/08	PCO I	HP/Birmingham
James Taylor Jr.	5/01/08	DL Specialist	DL/Reinstatement
Chyna Westry	5/01/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Mobile

Promotions

Lesia Baldwin	4/16/08	Criminal Intelligence Analyst	ABI/Criminal Intelligence Center
Thomas Bates	5/01/08	Lieutenant	HP/Quad Cities
Sandra Carmichael	5/01/08	ASA II	HP/Huntsville
Carol McMichen	4/16/08	Criminal Intelligence Analyst	ABI/Criminal Intelligence Center
Regina Manuel	5/01/08	DL Specialist	DL/Safety Responsibility
James Mobley	5/01/08	Equipment Maint. Supervisor	SER/Fleet Maintenance
Kyle Moore	4/16/08	ASA I	DL/Safety Responsibility
Penelope Oliver	5/01/08	ASA II	ADM/Legal
Jordan Phillips	4/16/08	PCO II	HP/Birmingham
Joan Riley	5/01/08	DL Specialist	DL/Reinstatement
Terry Ware	5/01/08	Lieutenant	HP/Decatur
Andre Williams	4/16/08	ASA III	ADM/Legal

Transfers

Laurie Evans	4/16/08	Forensic Tech. Examiner	ABI/Special Investigations
Todd Fulmer	5/01/08	Captain	ADM/Assistant Division Chief
Lynnette Johnson	4/16/08	Forensic Tech. Examiner	ABI/Special Investigations
Anthony Moreland	5/01/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Dothan Examining
Monique Prewitt	5/01/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Tuscaloosa Examining
Brandy Thomas	4/16/08	ASA II	ADM/Financial Services
Robert Thompson	4/16/08	Trooper	ABI/Special Investigations
Spencer Traywick	4/16/08	Trooper	ABI/Special Investigations
Barry Tucker	4/16/08	Lieutenant	ABI/Investigative Operations
Thomas Whitten	4/16/08	Trooper	ABI/Special Investigations
Karl Youngblood	4/16/08	Lieutenant	ABI/Special Investigations



People You Know!

Resignations

Terry Franklin	4/16/08	PCO I	HP/Tuscaloosa
Jamie McGregor	5/02/08	ASA II	DL/Information Services
Tracey Palacios	4/14/08	PCO I	HP/Birmingham

Retirements

Michael Coats	4/30/08	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa
Marthe Dodgen	4/30/08	PCO II	HP/Jacksonville
Frank Higginbotham	4/30/08	Lieutenant	ABI/Identification



Above, Nelson, with Maj. James Lyons, Lt. Col. Bubba Bingham, and Col. Chris Murphy. Below, (from left) King, Walding, Nelson, Jackson, and Murphy.



Nelson, Firefighters Commended

Public Information/Education's Sgt. Tracy Nelson and Geneva firefighters Mason Walding, Terry Jackson and Shannon King each were honored with the Department of Public Safety's Life Saving Award May 16 during a ceremony in the director's office.

The award stems from an incident last July in Geneva County, to which all four responded. On the morning of July 3, Nelson was beginning a shift in Geneva County when he heard a call over the radio about a house fire. Nelson arrived at the residence, only to find out that an elderly man was trapped inside.

Nelson was joined by the firefighters, and he and Jackson went into the burning house repeatedly in attempts to locate the trapped man. Finally, Nelson heard the resident gasping for air from a back bedroom. Then Walding entered the house with an air pack, and the four rescuers were able to pull the man from the house. Following medical treatment, the man made a full recovery.

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

Capt. Marc McHenry, HP

Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI

Lt. Karl Youngblood, ABI

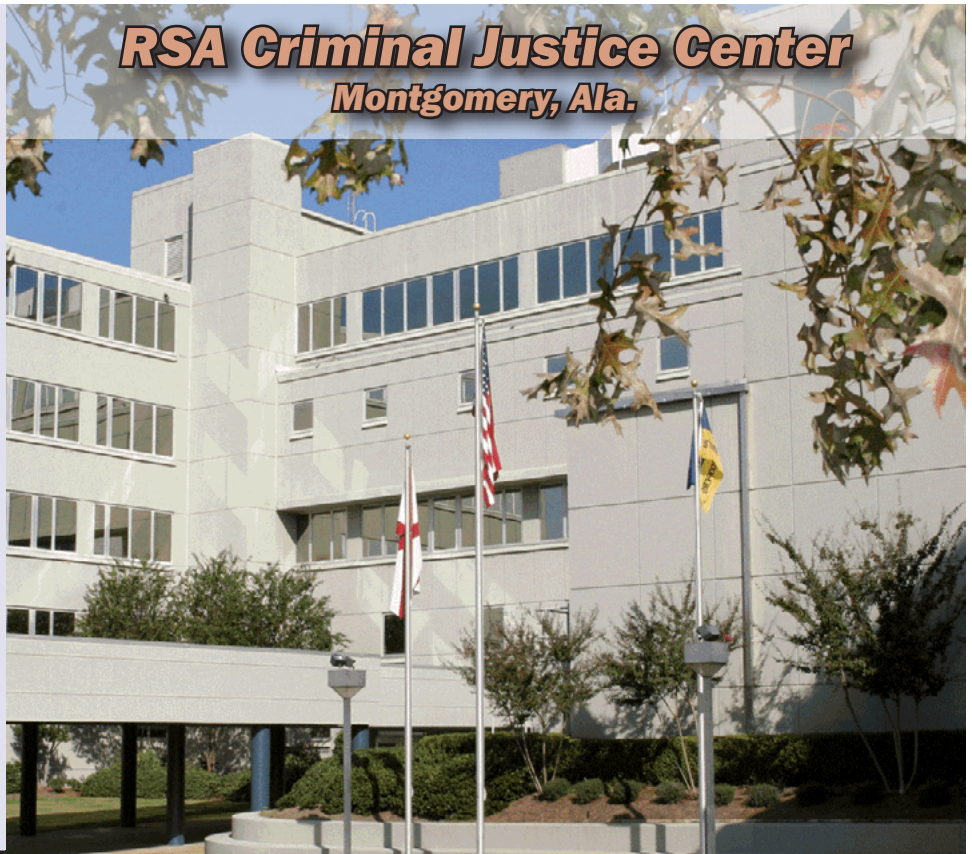
Tpr. John Reese, ADM

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

May 20, 2008

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Monday, June 2

Jefferson Davis' Birthday

Friday, July 4

Independence Day

Monday, September 1

Labor Day

Monday, October 13

Columbus Day

To Whom it May Concern:

Today I was driving on Highway 11 in St. Clair County, and I ran out of gas. Soon after running out of fuel, a young man stopped to help. He told me that he lived just up the road, and it would be no trouble to go to the gas station and fill up his gas can for me. He was back in only a few minutes, and in the course of conversation, he told me which house was his up the road. I convinced him to follow me back to the station so I could repay him for the fuel he put in my car, and had to practically twist his arm to get him to take enough money to cover the gas he bought.

As I went up the road, I noticed there was an Alabama State Trooper car in the driveway of his house. I found this ironic, because I got a speeding ticket a couple of weeks ago, and have been muttering under my breath at troopers every time I pass one lately. Life sure has a funny way of teaching us lessons.

I just wanted to let you know that Tpr. Steven Battles takes the law enforcement motto of "serve and protect" seriously. These are obviously not just job instructions, but something he believes in and lives, even when off duty.

Best Regards,

Blake Williams